

# FOUR COMPANIES TO GIVE OPERA IN NEW YORK

ON OCTOBER 15th, 1919

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## Repertories and Singers

Continued from page nine

Another Italian novelty will be Gino Marinuzzi's "Jacquerie," founded on a story by Eugene Sue. This opera was first presented last year at Buenos Ayres, where its composer was the chief conductor. The scenery of both these operas has been painted by Norman Bell-Godda. There will be three French novelties, Camille Erlanger's often announced "Aphrodite," André Messager's "Madame Chrysanthème" and Maurice Ravel's "L'Heure Espagnole." "Aphrodite" will, of course, display the charms of Miss Mary Garden. "Madame Chrysanthème," a lyric comedy in four acts, was first produced in Paris on January 26, 1893. The book is by Hartman and Alexander, and is taken from the exquisite story of Pierre Loti. For the American premier by the Chicago Opera Association M. Messager has made several changes to bring the opera up to date, as it will serve as another "Madama Butterfly" for the diminutive Japanese prima donna, Tamaki Miura.

"L'Heure Espagnole" ("The Spanish Hour") is a one-act musical comedy that was produced with great success at the Opéra Comique on May 19, 1911, and was performed with tremendous éclat at Covent Garden last summer. With a cast that included Pauline Donalda and that fine artist Maguenat. The action lasts hardly more than forty-five minutes. The poem is by Francis Schœnhan and the music by Maurice Ravel, the modern French impressionist. The opera takes place at Toledo in the eighteenth century. The scene passes in the shop of Torquemada, an absent-minded clockmaker, whose giddy wife hides her two rival lovers in big old clocks. They are carried in turn to her room by an unsuspecting mute, who by his prowess and strength finally wins the admiration of the faithless wife.

A Russian novelty to be sung in French, "The Love for Three Oranges" ("L'Amour pour les Trois Oranges"), the new opera by Serge Prokofiev, will be given a world premier by the Chicago Opera Association early in the season. Boris Anisfeld is to provide the scenery and Adolf Helm is to look after the stage management. The opera is in four acts and ten scenes and has a prologue.

Not least among the novelties planned for the coming season will be the new ballet by the Chicago composer, John Alden Carpenter, called "The Birth of the Infant," and "L'Amour pour les Trois Oranges," the new opera by Serge Prokofiev, will be given a world premier by the Chicago Opera Association early in the season. Boris Anisfeld is to provide the scenery and Adolf Helm is to look after the stage management. The opera is in four acts and ten scenes and has a prologue.

Another ballet will be Felix Borowski's "Boudoir" to a story invented by Pavley and Oukrinsky and with scenery painted by Norman Bell-Godda. Mr. Borowski is a Chicago critic and composer.

Among the new artists who are to appear with the company is Edward Johnson. According to several Italian critics, the fact that Edward Johnson (Edoardo di Giovanni) was born at Guelph, Canada, does not alter Italy's right to claim him as her own, since they maintain that in art it is the country of one's development and not the one of one's birth that determines an artist's nationality. In Italy Johnson is looked upon as the leading dramatic tenor of the day. Johnson returns to this country after an absence of ten years. It was about five years ago that La Scala decided on presenting Wagner's "Parsifal" and the singer chosen was Edoardo di Giovanni, a total stranger to the Milanese public. His performances became a feature of every La Scala season. Among the operas he helped to launch were "La Nave," by Montemezzi; Puccini's "Il Tabarro" and "Gianni Schicchi," and Marinuzzi's "Jacquerie." He is remembered here as the tenor in "The Waltz Dream."

Among the other new artists are Carlo Galeffi, formerly of the Boston Opera Company and recently the chief barytone of La Scala; Nina Morgana, an Italian-American soprano; Evelyn Herbert, a Brooklyn girl who will sing "Peterkin," the chief female part in "Rip Van Winkle," Borghild Langgaard, a Scandinavian dramatic soprano, and Nina Hager and Louise Harrison Slade, contraltos. In addition Titta Ruffo and Alessandro Bonci will return to the company, and Tito Schipa, an Italian light tenor, will appear.

Maestro Campanini will, as usual, conduct a few operas, but the burden of the work will fall on the new Italian conductor, Gino Marinuzzi, whose new opera "Jacquerie" will be produced. Mr. Marinuzzi has conducted at the

Scala, Costanzi and San Carlo, as well as the Teatro Reale of Madrid, the Opéra Comique of Paris and, for two seasons at the Colon of Buenos Ayres. For the Italian operas there will also be another new conductor, Teofilo De Angelis, from the Costanzi, Rome. Marcel Charlier and Louis Hasselmans, the French conductors, will, as heretofore, direct the French operas.

In announcing the opening of the season of opera by the Society of American Singers at the Park Theatre, which begins to-morrow night with Von Suppe's "Boccaccio," William Wade Hinshaw, general manager, says that it is the hope of the American Singers to become a genuine "people's opera company," worthy of the support and patronage of all music lovers, but at prices kept so low that no one will be deprived of the opportunity of hearing the repertory of grand and comic operas. While regular theatre prices for single admissions (ranging from 50 cents to \$2.50) will remain the same as last year, a discount of 20 per cent will be given to subscribers, making it possible to hear twenty different operas, covering one performance each week for twenty weeks, for \$8, \$16, \$24, \$32 and \$40.

### Park Theatre Opera Season Will Open To-Morrow Night

Von Suppe's "Boccaccio" is the opera which will open the Society of American Singers' third season at the Park Theatre to-morrow evening. This work, which has not been heard locally for a long time, will be given an elaborate revival, and practically the entire company, with the exception of the grand opera guest artists, will be in the cast. The title rôle will be sung by Cora Tracy, whose vocal ability and dramatic artistry won her many friends last season. As the dashing poet of the Italian Renaissance she will have ample opportunity to display her talents to the best advantage.

The chief comedy parts will be in the hands of Frank Moulán and William Danforth. The former will be seen as Lotterio, a cooper; the latter as Lambertuccio, a grocer. Bertram Peacock will have the third comedy part of Scalza, a barber, while Craig Campbell and Ralph Brainard will alternate in the rôle of Leonetto, the friend of Boccaccio, Morton Adkins will have the part of Pietro, Prince of Palermo.

Luth Miller will sing the music of Puccini's daughter of Lambertuccio. Virginia Rea, a new comer and a coloratura soprano, will sing Beatrice, the daughter of Scalza. Gladys Caldwell will be heard as Isabella, the first wife of Lotterio, and Kate Condon will be the Peronella. Herbert Waterous is cast for Fratelli, a bookseller, and Eugene Martinet as the Unknown. Charles Scribner as a messenger, Jack Goldman as a beggar, Gertrude Shannon as Fresco, the cooper's apprentice; Adeline Harold as Filippa and Gertrude Rea as the Unknown. The orchestra will be under the direction of John McGhie.

### Further Plans of The Star Opera Company

On Monday evening, October 20, the Star Opera Company will begin its preliminary season of operas and operettas at the Lexington Theatre for a period of eight and a half weeks, to be followed later in the season by many of the longer operas which have not been heard in New York for some time.

Among the productions which will take place during the first week in November is that of "Fatintina." Other light operas in preparation which will be heard during November are "Stradella," "The Tyrolean," "The Golden Cross," and "November 21 and 22 'The Fair Helen.'" Well known works to be presented during consecutive weeks are "The Trumpeter of Säckingen," "Boccaccio," "Fra Diavolo" and "The Chimes of Normandy."

The Star Opera Company announces to-day that it has in preparation a gala performance of "Martha," to be followed during the same week, by "The Beggar Student."

The opening performance will consist of a concert of music from "Die Meistersinger," with Carl Braun, Otto Goritz, Mme. Ober, Albert Reiss, Herman Weil and the famous quintet. This performance will be conducted by Theodore Spiering and the Star Opera Orchestra of seventy-three pieces, and will consist of seven separate and distinct numbers, including "The Address of Pögnen," sung by Carl Braun; a monologue by Herman Weil and two numbers by Mme. Margarete Ober. The

CORA TRACY



Who will sing the title rôle in "Boccaccio" at the Park Theatre to-morrow evening

permanent Star Opera Company chorus will be augmented on that night by over 250 members of the singing societies of New York. After the "Meistersinger" concert Kreutzer's "A Night in Granada" will be presented, with seven soloists, including Otto Goritz, Albert Reiss and Elsa Diemer (debut), which will be conducted by Louis Koemmenich.

The rest of the first week will be as follows: Wednesday and Thursday evenings, "Zar and Zimmermann" and Friday, Saturday matinee and Saturday evening, "Die Fledermaus" ("The Bat").

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